

## E-3: Check for academic understanding

### Ask questions throughout the lesson

#### Determine where in your lesson plan to check for understanding

Plan to check if students are “getting it” during key parts of the lesson (P-3). For a 5-step lesson plan, consider including questions:

##### During the Introduction to New Material

- Once you write your key points, include checks for understanding to address and follow these points.
- As you create an outline of your presentation, notice where the lesson has natural breaks – use this time to check for understanding and allow students to process the new information
- Before moving to practice, remember to check student comprehension of the main ideas you just presented (if you don't, students may be confused or under-prepared to begin guided practice)

##### During Guided Practice.

- The guided practice activity can serve as your check for understanding,
- If students are working on an activity, plan to circulate, monitor their work, and ask individual questions

##### During Independent Practice

- If you don't use the Independent Practice assignment as your lesson assessment, it can serve as a last check for understanding before giving your formative assessment.
- Again, plan to circulate, monitor student work, and strategically probe individual comprehension as students work

##### During the Closing

- This can be a place for review questions at the end of lesson. The closing is also often used as a formative lesson assessment (P-1)

#### Make sure to ask the questions you planned at the right moments

As you present your key ideas, remember to check whether students are following along. To help you remember to deliver your planned checks, use these tips:

- Rehearse the lesson the night before. (For more guidance about rehearsing your lesson plan, see the E-1 page.)
- Write down specific questions for different parts of the lesson on note cards (with the follow-up questions on the back)
- Have a lesson plan outline in your hand with moments for posing questions highlighted
- Use a PowerPoint presentation and include the questions in your slides